

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

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R 122207Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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GENEVA FOR PHELAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EPAP, YO

SUBJECT: US-YUGOSLAV CONSULTATIONS ON WOOL SUITS

1. US AND YUGOSLAV DELEGATION MET MAY 4, 5 AND 11 TO
DISCUSS YUGOSLAV SHIPMENTS OF MEN'S AND BOYS WOOL SUITS;
MAN-MADE FIBER SUITS WERE ALSO DISCUSSED. YUGOSLAVS SAID
THEY HAVE ORDERS FOR 97,000 SUITS DURING 1978 AND WISHED
TO HAVE SIMILAR AMOUNT PLUS 10 PERCENT ANNUAL GROWTH FOR
1979 AND 1980. US INDICATED THAT BOTH BASE AMOUNT AND
ANNUAL GROWTH RATE PRESENTED PROBLEMS AND THAT NORMAL US
PRACTICE HAS BEEN TO GRANT ONLY 1 PERCENT GROWTH FOR WOOL
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PRODUCTS. HOWEVER, US WAS WILLING TO TRY TO WORK OUT
MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE PACKAGE.

2. US SIDE SUGGESTED THAT YUGOSLAVS CONSIDER NEGOTIATING
MAXIMUM SHIPMENT LEVEL FOR MAN-MADE FIBER (MMF) MEN'S AND
BOYS SUITS AS WELL AS FOR MEN'S AND BOYS WOOL SUITS; THIS
PERMITS INTER-PRODUCT FLEXIBILITY AS REQUIRED BY THE

MULTIFIBER ARRANGEMENT AND GIVES POSSIBILITY OF WORKING OUT FLEXIBLE OVERALL PACKAGE WITH BETTER DEAL FOR YUGOSLAVS ON WOOL SUITS THAN IF WOOL WAS CONSIDERED ALONE. YUGOSLAV DELEGATION STATED ON MAY 11 THAT THEY DID NOT AT THAT TIME HAVE AUTHORITY TO INCLUDE MMF SUITS IN ANY

UNDERSTANDING BUT THAT THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO CONSIDER COVERING MMF AND WOOL SUITS IF THEIR POTENTIAL SHIPMENTS IN MMF PRODUCTS WERE AT LEAST AS GREAT AS THEIR POTENTIAL IN WOOL SUITS. AT YUGOSLAV REQUEST, US SIDE AGREED TO PROVIDE INDICATION OF SIZE OF MMF SUIT SHIPMENTS WHICH WE WOULD CONSIDER ACCEPTABLE IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANTICIPATED WOOL SUIT SHIPMENTS; WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THIS INFO WEEK OF MAY 15 AND WILL ADVISE EMBASSY.

3. BECAUSE YUGOSLAV DEL NEEDED TO RETURN TO BELGRADE ON AFTERNOON OF MAY 11, US SUGGESTED THAT CONSULTATIONS CONTINUE IN YUGOSLAVIA DURING WEEK OF JUNE 12 OR JUNE 26; WE WILL CONFIRM SPECIFIC DATE EARLY DURING WEEK OF MAY 15.

4. YUGOSLAVS ASSURED US SIDE THAT PENDING RESUMPTION OF CONSULTATIONS, THEIR SHIPMENTS OF WOOL SUITS WOULD NOT EXCEED AN ANNUAL RATE OF 92,400 UNITS. DEPARTMENT WILL CONFIRM THIS UNDERSTANDING BY LETTER TO ACTING ECONOMIC COUNSELOR KULISIC. VANCE

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